



THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA

Week of January 25, 2010

The following information is a brief summary on the bills and key hearings that the Department of Early Learning (DEL) has monitored. This weekly summary is not an indication of bills or positions supported by DEL. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all bills and hearings related to issues impacting early learning.

Bills Introduced

- **Senate Bill 6759**, sponsored by Senator Kauffman, was introduced on January 25 and was referred to the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee. The bill would direct the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), with assistance from DEL, to convene a working group that reports to the Quality Education Council (QEC), to develop a plan to include a voluntary early learning program as a part of basic education. The bill would also reduce the membership of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) from 25 members to 23 members. A public hearing on this bill was held on January 27 (see Hearings below). Find more information about SB 6759 [here](#).
- **Senate Bill 6761**, sponsored by Senator McAuliffe, was introduced on January 25 and was referred to the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee. The bill would adopt certain recommendations of the Quality Education Council (QEC). DEL Director Bette Hyde is a member of the QEC. A public hearing on the bill was held on January 28 (see Hearings below). Find more information about SB 6761 [here](#).
- **House Bill 3141**, sponsored by Representative Kagi, was introduced on January 27 and referred to the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee. The bill would redesign the delivery of the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program, and change eligibility authorizations for Working Connections Child Care subsidies to be effective for 12 months. A public hearing was scheduled for January 29. Find more information about HB 3141 [here](#).

Hearings

- On Monday, the House Ways and Means Committee heard testimony on **Substitute House Bill 2731**, which had been amended by the House Early Learning and Children's Services Committee on January 22. The bill would create an early learning program for educationally at-risk children. Testimony was offered by Leslie Goldstein of the Governor's Office, and representatives of the Washington Federation of Independent

Schools, Institute for Justice Washington, Thurston County Sheriff's Office, League of Education Voters, Children's Alliance, Economic Policy Institute, and the Early Learning Action Alliance. The TVW archive of this meeting is available [here](#).

- On Tuesday, the House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee heard testimony on **HB 3031**, a bill that would allow state agencies to charge a public records requester for the agency's staff time if filling the request totals five or more staff hours in a month. Testifying on the bill were representatives of Washington Newspaper Publishers Association, King County, and Clallam County. In addition, individuals from Palouse and Olympia testified. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).
- On Tuesday, the House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee held a hearing on **HB 2736**, a bill that would create a new Office of Open Records that would act as a mediation unit for public records disputes. State Auditor Brian Sontag testified on the bill, as well as the state Open Government Ombudsman, a representative from the Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington, and an Olympia resident. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).
- On Wednesday, The Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education held two work sessions and a public hearing on several bills related to early learning.

The work sessions were on (1) the Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP), and (2) on the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). The presentation on ITEIP was offered by the acting director of the DSHS-ITEIP program, Karen Walker. The presentation on ECEAP was offered by DEL Deputy Director Bob Hamilton.

The public hearing covered the following bills: **SB 6593**, a bill that would transfer the Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) from DSHS to the DEL; **SB 6668**, a bill to expand eligibility for children with disabilities in the DEL Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP); **SB 6517**, the Governor's *All-Start* voluntary preschool program; and **SB 6759**, a bill making a voluntary preschool program as part of basic education.

Testimony was heard from Leslie Goldstein for the Governor's Office, Jada Rupley for the Educational Service Districts, a representative from the State Inter-agency Coordinating Committee the Denise Louise Education Center, Early Learning Action Alliance, Economic Opportunity Institute, Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP, and several parents, early learning professionals, educators, child advocates and a police chief.

The TVW archive of the video is available [here](#).

- On Thursday, the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee held a hearing on **HB 2741** and **HB 3042**. HB 2741 would transfer the Infant and Toddler Early

Intervention Program (ITEIP) from the DSHS to DEL. Testifying on HB 2741 bill were DEL Deputy Director Bob Hamilton, DSHS Assistant Secretary Kathy Leitch, a representative of South Sound Parent-to-Parent, and several parents. Testifying on HB 3042 were a representative of the Service Employees International Union Local 925, and two licensed family home child care providers. DEL Deputy Director Bob Hamilton responded to questions from the Committee about the bill and DEL licensing practices. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#). On Friday, the committee decided not to vote on referring HB 3042 out of committee. The bill sponsor indicated that he would work with the budget committee to put language into the budget proviso.

- On Thursday, the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee held a hearing on **SB 6761**, a bill that would enact certain recommendations of the Quality Education Council (QEC). Testifying on the bill were representatives of OSPI, the League of Education Voters, Washington State Parent-Teacher Association, Citizens United for Responsible Education, North Mason School District, Washington Association of School Business Officials, Washington State School Directors Association, and Washington Education Association. The TVW archive of this hearing is available [here](#).
- On Friday, the House Early Learning and Children's Services Committee held a hearing on **HB 3807**, a bill about verification on public assistance applications. They also heard testimony on **HB 3141** that redesigns the delivery of temporary assistance to needy families and requires 12 month authorizations for Working Connections Child Care. Testifying were representatives of the WorkFirst Cabinet including Marty Brown, Governor Gregoire's Director of Legislative Affairs; Bette Hyde, DEL Director; Susan Dreyfus, DSHS Secretary; Charlie Earl, Director of the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges; and Karen Lee, Commissioner of the Employment Security Department. Additional testimony in support of the bill was provided by: parents, child care providers, Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP, Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights, and Columbia Legal Services. Other supporters of the bill not testifying included: Children's Alliance, League of Women Voters, American Federation of Teachers, SEIU #925, Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Children's Home Society, the Civic Engagement Project, and Leschi Community Council. See the [TVW archives](#) to watch or listen to this meeting.

Bill Action

- On Tuesday, the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee voted to refer **Substitute Senate Bill 6403**. The bill continues to have DEL appointed as a member of the building bridges work group. The amended bill addresses accountability and support for vulnerable students and dropouts, including prevention, intervention, and reengagement. The amended bill received a due pass recommendation and was referred to the Senate Rules Committee for second reading. The TVW archive of this meeting is available [here](#).

- On Tuesday, the House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee voted to refer an amended version of HB 2617, bill that would eliminate or transfer certain boards and commissions that were not regulatory, part of governance, or required for federal funding. **Substitute House Bill 2617** would restore 31 of the 78 boards and commissions - including the Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents Advisory Committee and Council on Children and Families - that would have been eliminated in the original bill. The TVW archive of this meeting is available at this [link](#).
- On Wednesday, the full House voted to pass **Substitute House Bill 1329**. This bill would permit collective bargaining for child care center directors and workers. In 2009, the House and Senate passed different versions of this bill, but the two chambers were unable to agree on a common bill. The bill was referred to the Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee. Find more information about SHB 1329 [here](#).
- On Thursday the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee took executive action on **Substitute House Bill 2687**. The amended bill would create a home visiting services account in the state Treasury and clarifies responsibilities of DEL for the administration of the account. The bill was referred with a do-pass recommendation. The TVW archive of this meeting is available [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee voted to refer **SB 6288**, a bill that would allow counties, cities, and towns to request background checks for certain license applicants and licensees. The bill was referred to the Senate Rules Committee for second reading. In a hearing on the bill on Monday, testifying were representatives of the City of Vancouver and the Washington Ambulance Association. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).
- On Thursday, the full House voted to pass **Substitute Senate Bill 6382**, a bill reducing the cost of government operations by restricting state employee compensation. The Senate had passed the bill on January 22. Find more information about SSB 6382 [here](#).
- On Friday, the House Ways and Means Committee was scheduled to take action on possible amendments to **SSB 6503**, a bill that directs state agencies to achieve a reduction in employee compensation costs from the state General Fund through a variety of methods. See the [TVW archives](#) to watch or listen to this meeting.
- On Friday, the House Early Learning and Children's Services Committee passed **Substitute House Bill 2741**, a bill to move the Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) from DSHS to DEL. The amended bill changes ITEIP to the Early Supports Program. See the [TVW archives](#) to watch or listen to this meeting.